



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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3 AUGUST 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. South Vietnam

Voting in Saigon next month could be hazardous if the Viet Cong are able to carry out the increased assassinations and sabotage they reportedly are planning for the capital city. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Communists have assigned special terror squads to Saigon. Their objective is to cut down the vote in the elections for a constitutional assembly.

2. North Vietnam

An article in the party journal points to some top level dissension in Hanoi. The article is discussed at Annex.

3. Thailand

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4. Congo

The mutiny of Katangese troops in Kisangani shows signs of spreading.

Other Katangese soldiers northeast of Kisangani are moving toward the city, apparently looting and carousing on the way. Some mercenaries in the area are also getting out of hand, and are said to have blown up a bank and then headed for Kisangani.

This is just the sort of behavior that could quickly mushroom into a wild breakdown of public order quite beyond Mobutu's capability to control.

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5. Pakistan

Some Pakistani officials, although less intemperate than the country's press, are in a dither over alleged Indian preparations for an early nuclear test.

One foreign office type told our chargé this week he has it from "unimpeachable" sources that the Indians plan an atomic explosion before the elections next February.

We think these fears are unfounded.

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We think it unlikely that India intends to reverse its policy against nuclear proliferation, or to renege on its adherence to the nuclear test ban treaty.

6. Venezuela

Both political and military circles seem to be more restive than at any time in recent months.

Their unhappiness, stemming from the government's inept handling of its legislative program, is egged on by rumors and reports of Communist infiltration of the military, guerrilla landings on the coast, and a general belief that a wave of urban terrorism may develop.

The present situation does not seem serious enough to generate a coup

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7. Nicaragua

President Schick's sudden death is not likely to shake up the political situation. The Somoza brothers' well-oiled political machine is not affected. General Anastasio Somoza, Jr., nominated for president last weekend, is almost a sure bet for next February's elections.

The interim president named by congress today [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] probably will not have an opportunity to do much harm.

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8. Cuba

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9. Nigeria

Ironsi's bullet-ridden body has apparently been found.

Public confirmation of his death could end the surface calm in Lagos, which many Nigerians regard as a lull before the storm. Many signs still point to a possible early breakup of the country along major tribal lines.

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10. Yemen

We are not optimistic that another round of talks--to begin "soon" between personal representatives of Nasir and Faysal--will do much toward solving the Yemen problem.

ANNEX

North Vietnam: Dissension in the Ranks

Some fairly solid evidence of infighting among members of the North Vietnamese politburo has recently come to light.

The July issue of the North Vietnamese party journal has an article by politburo member Nguyen Chi Thanh who apparently has been in South Vietnam directing the war effort. Thanh, a hard-nosed advocate of the Mao Tse-tung line, takes some hefty swipes at his critics in top policy-making jobs.

Thanh is rankled by Monday morning quarterbacks trying to run the war from a desk in Hanoi. He reserves particularly caustic barbs for "some people" who apparently recommended that the Viet Cong concentrate their military effort in the highlands even if it meant abandoning large parts of the coastal plain and delta.

In keeping with the best tradition of comradely togetherness, Thanh names no names. But the message comes through and it is quite clear that one addressee is Thanh's long-time rival, General Vo Nguyen Giap. Giap is North Vietnam's top soldier and the much publicized victor at Dien Bien Phu.

The very fact that the article appeared indicates the dispute, at least for the time being, has been resolved in favor of Thanh's strategy for warfare throughout the south.

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